

6/8/64

Airtel

1 -

b6  
b7C

REC-32 139-1990-1

To: SAC, Birmingham

From: Director, FBI

THOMAS LANKFORD  
UPUC

*PL*  
Reurairtel 6/4/64.

*Rv return mail surep setting forth complaint of*  
[redacted] *in order that it may be appropriately*  
*disseminated to the Department.*

b6  
b7C  
b7D

JWH/ras  
(4) *ras*

NOTE: Birmingham by airtel dated 6/4/64 advised that [redacted]  
[redacted], stated he had received an  
anonymous telephone call from a person who said he was a telephone  
lineman. This person told [redacted] that his line had been tapped  
by a reporter from the Birmingham News during fall of 1963.  
[redacted] for defamation of  
character and said that he was furnishing the information to the  
FBI because he feared that the information obtained by tapping  
his telephone would be used in connection with his civil suit.  
Birmingham instructed to submit report for dissemination.

b6  
b7C  
b7D

MAILED 5

JUN 8 1964

COMM-FBI

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

7-2-1964  
FBI - BIRMINGHAM  
POLICE

61 JUN 12 1964

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

F B I

Date: 6/4/64

Transmit the following in:

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTELAIRMAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: Director, FBI

FROM: SAC, Birmingham (139-NEW) (C)

SUBJECT: THOMAS LANKFORD  
UPUC  
(OO: BIRMINGHAM)

JAF.

Montgomery  
Complaint

6

On June 3, 1964, [redacted] telephonically advised that he had received an anonymous telephone call from an individual [redacted] who identified himself as a telephone company lineman. This individual told [redacted] that sometime during the Fall of 1963, while the investigation concerning the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church was in progress, THOMAS LANKFORD, reporter for the Birmingham News, tapped [redacted] telephone line from a box next to [redacted] home.

b6  
b7C  
b7D

[redacted] stated he was arrested in 1960, in connection with the beating of Freedom Riders at the Birmingham Bus Terminal, on Mother's Day. [redacted] stated that he was subsequently acquitted on assault charges stemming from this incident, and [redacted] for alleged defamation of character, resulting from publicity focused by the News on [redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7D

[redacted] stated that the reason he is furnishing this information to the FBI was that he feared information which was possibly gained by LANKFORD would be used in connection with his civil trial. [redacted] was advised that Federal jurisdiction in wire tapping cases is dependent upon publication of the unlawfully obtained information.

b6  
b7C  
b7D

3-Bureau

4-Birmingham (2 - 139-NEW) REC-32

(1 - 157-352) (BAPBOMB)

(1 - 157-411) [redacted]

RM:ela

(7)

MCT-13

139-1920-1

11 JUN 9 1964

initial 7-84  
6-8-64  
7-4-64

Approved:

P.L.F./J.Z.P.

Sent

M

Per

Special Agent in Charge

C.C. Wick (7)

b6  
b7C  
b7D

BH 139-NEW

Due to the vagueness and lack of corroboration concerning these facts, no action will be taken on this matter at the present time, UACB.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE BIRMINGHAM	OFFICE OF ORIGIN BIRMINGHAM	DATE 6/10/64	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 6/3 - 4/64
TITLE OF CASE ① THOMAS LANKFORD		REPORT MADE BY ROBERT MURPHY	TYPED BY rvm
		CHARACTER OF CASE UPUC	

REFERENCE: Birmingham airtel to Bureau, 6/4/64.  
Bureau airtel to Birmingham, 6/8/64.

- C -

## ADMINISTRATIVE:

--

No description of LANKFORD furnished since [redacted]  
could not supply same.

APPROVED

COPIES MADE:

SPECIAL AGENT,  
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

② - Bureau

3 - Birmingham (139-26)

139-1990-	2	STB1022
16 JUN 12 1964	16 JUN 12 1964	16 JUN 12 1964
16 JUN 12 1964	16 JUN 12 1964	16 JUN 12 1964

DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT			
AGENCY	139-26	139-26	139-26
REQUEST REC'D.	6-24-64	6-24-64	6-24-64
DATE FWD.	6-24-64	6-24-64	6-24-64
HOW FWD.	6-24-64	6-24-64	6-24-64
BY	6-24-64	6-24-64	6-24-64

NOTATIONS

SAC  
STAFF SECT.

Joe Spangler, SA

22 JUN 25 1964 303

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Copy to:

Report of: SA ROBERT MURPHY N Office: Birmingham, Alabama  
Date: 6/10/64

Field Office File No.: 139-26

Bureau File No.:

Title: THOMAS LANKFORD

Character: UNAUTHORIZED PUBLICATION OR USE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Synopsis: On 6/3/64, [redacted] advised that an anonymous telephone call, purportedly from a telephone company lineman, advised him his telephone had been tapped during the Fall of 1963 by THOMAS LANKFORD, employee of "Birmingham News". [redacted]

[redacted] for defamation of character concerning publicity given to assault charges against [redacted] in 1960. Security Department, Southern Bell Telephone Company, Birmingham, advised of allegation and no evidence of wire tap found.

b6  
b7C  
b7D

- C -

Date 6/10/64Informant

[redacted] telephonically advised he recently received an anonymous telephone call from an individual who identified himself as a telephone company lineman. This individual told [redacted] that during the Fall of 1963, THOMAS LANKFORD, an employee of "The Birmingham News", had tapped [redacted] telephone line from a box outside [redacted] house. [redacted] stated he had also observed LANKFORD parked in a green panel truck with one-way glass near his house during the Fall of 1963 and when he, [redacted] approached LANKFORD and asked what he was doing there, LANKFORD replied he was watching the road and working with the Sheriff's Office.

b6  
b7C  
b7D

[redacted] stated he found a transmitter set at 98.75 megacycles FM in his car during the Fall of 1963 and believes this was also placed there by LANKFORD, since LANKFORD is well known as a "wire tapper". He could not elaborate on this.

b6  
b7C  
b7D

[redacted] stated the reason his line was tanned was because [redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7D

[redacted] stated the reason he was passing along this information concerning LANKFORD was because he feared that some information gained from the tap would be used in his civil suit when it comes to trial.

b6  
b7C  
b7D

He was advised that Federal jurisdiction in wire tap matters is based on publication of the information, and that without evidence of publication no Federal violation would exist.

---

On 6/3/64 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 139-26  
 by SA ROBERT MURPHY - HSS/rvm Date dictated 6/8/64

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

BH 139-26

On June 3, 1964, SAC RAY L. FAISST advised Mr. [redacted] State Security Manager, Southern Bell Telephone Company, Birmingham, Alabama, of the complaint received from [redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7D

On June 4, 1964, [redacted] advised SA(A) DONALD GUTHRIE that a check of [redacted] telephone line reflected no indication of wire tapping.

6/22/64

1 - Mr. Swanson

Airtel

To: SAC, Birmingham  
From: Director, FBI (139-1990)  
THOMAS LANKFORD  
UPUC

ReBuairtel 6/8/64.

Advise date report submitted and name of reporting Agent. If not already submitted, submit immediately advising reasons for delay.

HCS/ras  
(4)

ras  
NOTE: Birmingham by airtel dated 6/4/64 advised that [redacted] [redacted] stated he had received an anonymous telephone call from a person who said he was a telephone lineman. This person told [redacted] that his line had been tapped by a reporter from the Birmingham News during fall of 1963. [redacted] for defamation of character and said that he was furnishing the information to the FBI because he feared that the information obtained by tapping his telephone would be used in connection with his civil suit. Birmingham instructed to submit report for dissemination.

b6  
b7C  
b7D

MAILED 2Z  
JUN 23 1964  
COMM-FBI

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

64 JUN 25 1964  
MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

REC-46/139-1990-3

19 JUN 22 1964

F B I

Date: 6-23-64

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)TO: Director, FBI (139-1990)  
FROM: SAC, Birmingham (139-26) (C)  
THOMAS LANKFORD  
UPUC

ReBUAirtel 6-22-64.

Report of SA ROBERT MURPHY submitted by Birmingham under  
date 6-10-64.3-Bureau (AM)  
1-Birmingham  
AMS:rlg  
(4)REC-13  
139-1990-4

EX 101

1 JUN 25 1964

C C - 100K

66 Appr'd: *John E. Lewis*  
66 JUN 25 1964  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_